Review of Indo-Nepal agreement

†1150. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to have complete review of Indo-Nepal agreement of 1950;

(b) whether Nepal Government is also taking initiative to have amendment in the agreement;

(c) whether any proposal for complete review of Indo-Nepal agreement of 1950 has been exchanged between Governments of Nepal and India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) During the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India from September 14-18, 2008, it was, *inter-alia*, agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. A high-level committee of Foreign Secretaries will examine this issue.

Border talks with China

1151. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been talks with China over the border question; and

(b) if so, the details of the talks held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The twelfth round of Special Representatives Talks on the India-China boundary question was held in Beijing from 18 to 19 September, 2008. The Special Representatives of the two countries, Mr. M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser and Mr. Dai Bingguo, State Councillor held useful and positive discussions on the framework for the settlement of the India-China boundary question on the basis of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question signed on April 11, 2005. The two Special Representatives reaffirmed the consensus to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through consultations on an equal footing, proceeding from the political perspective of overall bilateral relations. The two sides agreed that the next round of talks would be held in Delhi. The specific dates would be decided through diplomatic channels.

Attack and arrest of fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

1152. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Navy is regularly attacking the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and also arresting them for no reasons;

(b) the total number of persons taken into custody so far during this year;

(c) the numbers that have been killed by them so far during this year; and

(d) the steps that are being taken by our Government to protect and get them released from Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been incidents of apprehension and firing upon Indian fishermen allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Sri Lankan Navy has denied responsibility in incidents of firing on Indian fishermen.

(b) According to available information, in the period between 1st January to 5th December, 2008, one thousand four hundred and fifty two (1452) fishermen have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. All the fishermen have been released from custody and repatriated after intervention of the Government of India.

(c) According to media reports, in the period between 1st January to 5th December 2008, five Indian fishermen have allegedly been killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Sri Lankan Navy has denied responsibility after investigating the incidents.

(d) The Government always take up strongly all such incidents with the Government of Sri Lanka and emphasize the need for the Sri Lankan Navy to act with restraint, desist from firing on our fishermen and treat them in a humane manner. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the issue, Government has reached an understanding with the Sri Lankan Government on 26th October 2008 to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line. As part of these arrangements, there will be no firing on Indian fishing vessels and Indian fishing vessels will not tread into sensitive areas designated by the Government of Sri Lanka along its coastline.

End of monarchy in Nepal

1153. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Constituent Assembly of Nepal has abolished monarchy there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether exciting treaties with previous Government have undergone any changes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether new treaties have been entered into; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?